

# **Washington State Legislative History Chart Book:**

A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of  
The Washington State Legislature

2018 Update

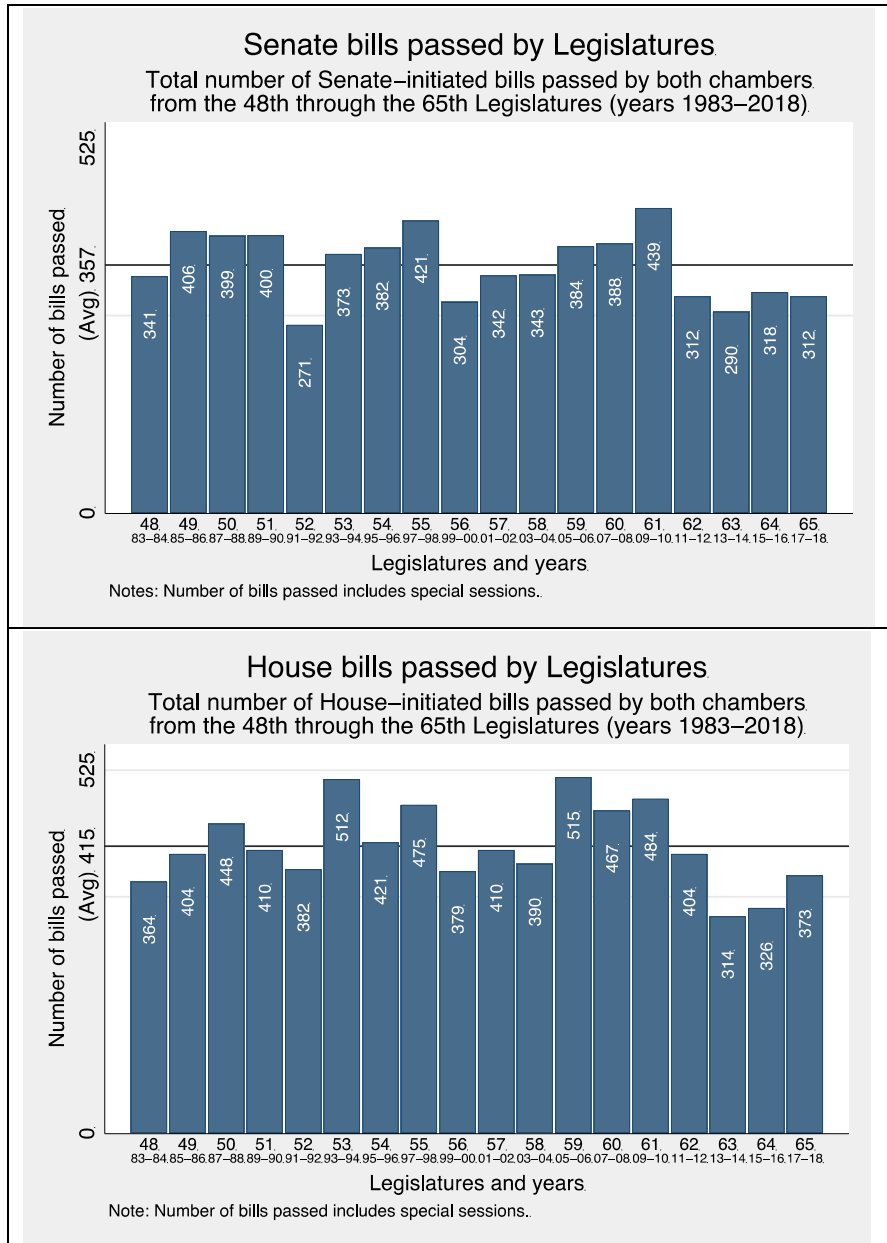
# **A Selected Graphical and Tabular History of Washington State Legislature**

## **Table of Contents**

- Page 1-2: Bill history by legislature
- Page 3-5: Bills passed by chamber, legislature and year
- Page 6-7: Similar to previous but side-by-side
- Page 8-10: Bills passed by chamber, legislature and year showing regular and special sessions
- Page 11: Summary table of regular and special sessions
- Page 12-14: Statistical summary of bills introduced and passed by chamber, total and year
- Page 15: Table of percent bills passed
- Page 16: Charts of veto detail by chamber and year
- Page 17: Charts of bills vetoed with percent enacted by chamber and year
- Page 18: Box plots contrasting bills vetoed by chamber
- Page 19: Summary table of percent bills vetoed by chamber, legislature and year
- Page 20: Gubernatorial appointments, showing referred and confirmed
- Page 21: Graphic history since 1980 of length of session
- Page 22: Table summary of legislative sessions, and a brief narrative for the next four charts
- Page 23-26: Political division since 1889 by chamber and year
- Page 27-29: Graphic history of women in legislature

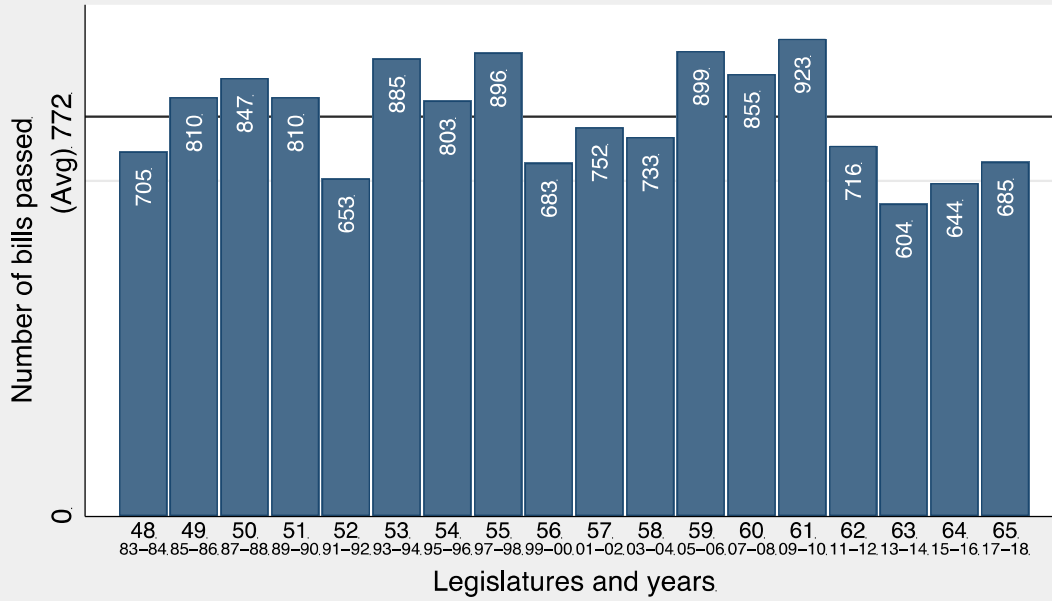
The following gives a selected graphical history of Washington state legislature.

First is an overview showing bill history beginning with the 48<sup>th</sup> Legislature.



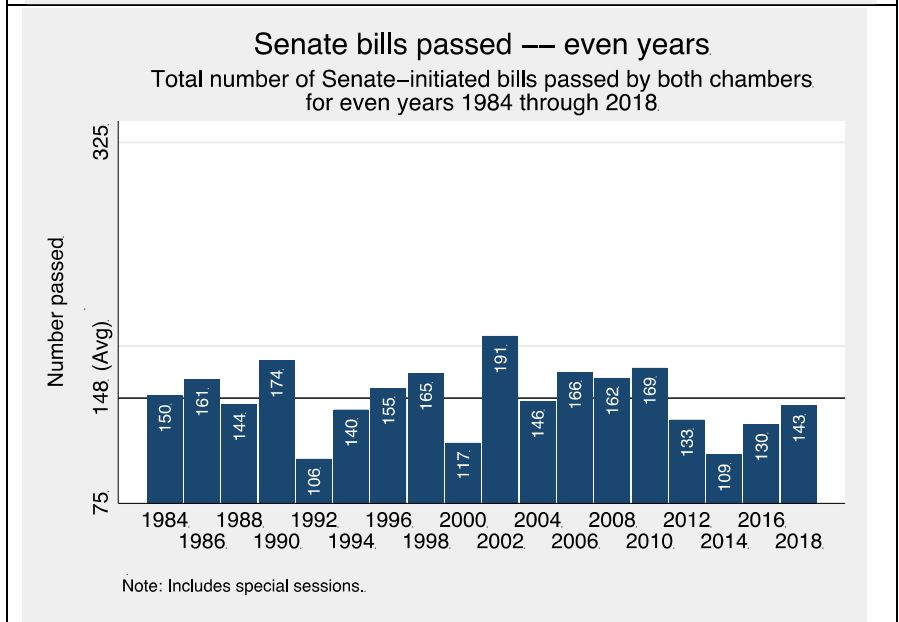
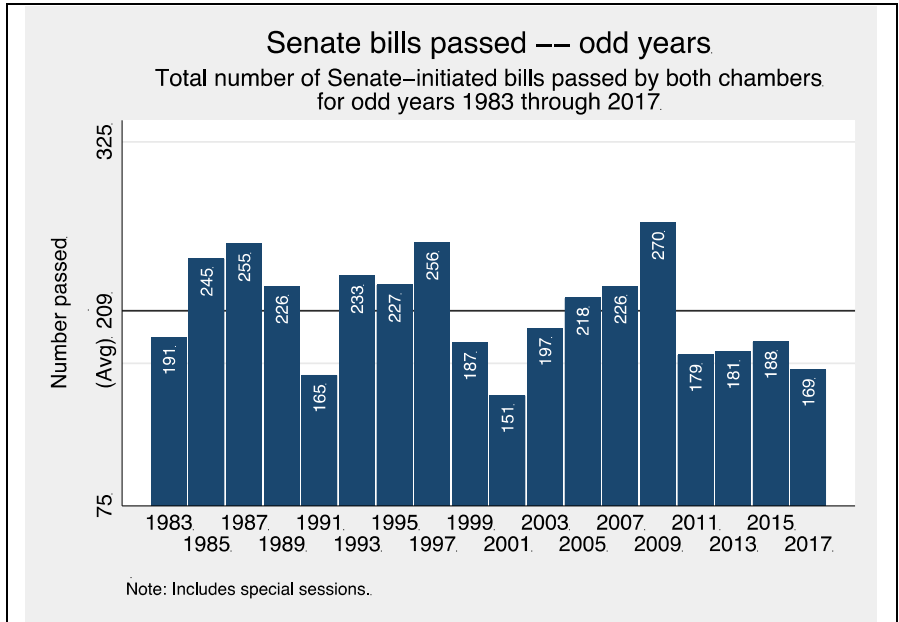
## Total bills passed by Legislatures

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both from the 48th through the 65th Legislatures (years 1983–2018).



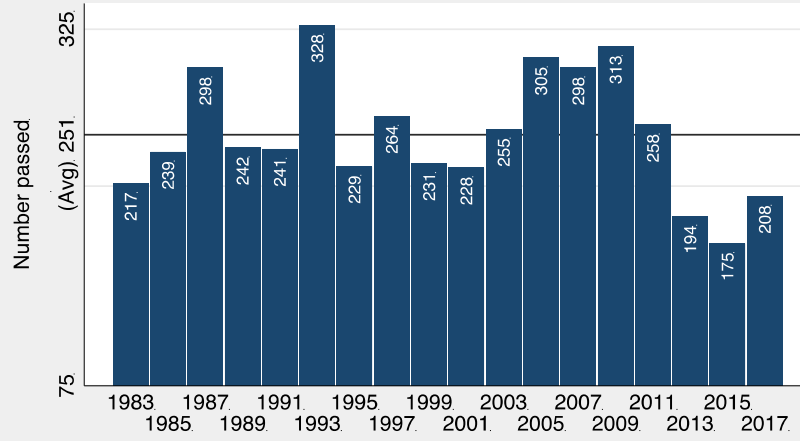
Note: Number of bills passed includes special sessions.

The next six charts summarize bills initiated by each chamber and legislature as a whole and passed by both, for odd and even years.



### House bills passed -- odd years

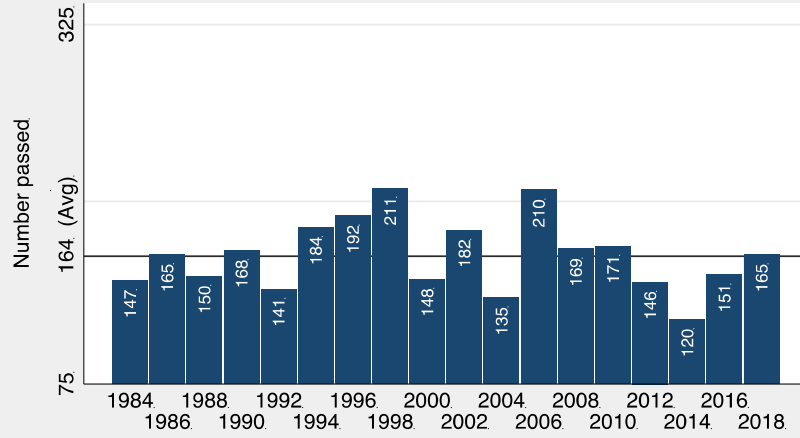
Total number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers for odd years 1983 through 2017.



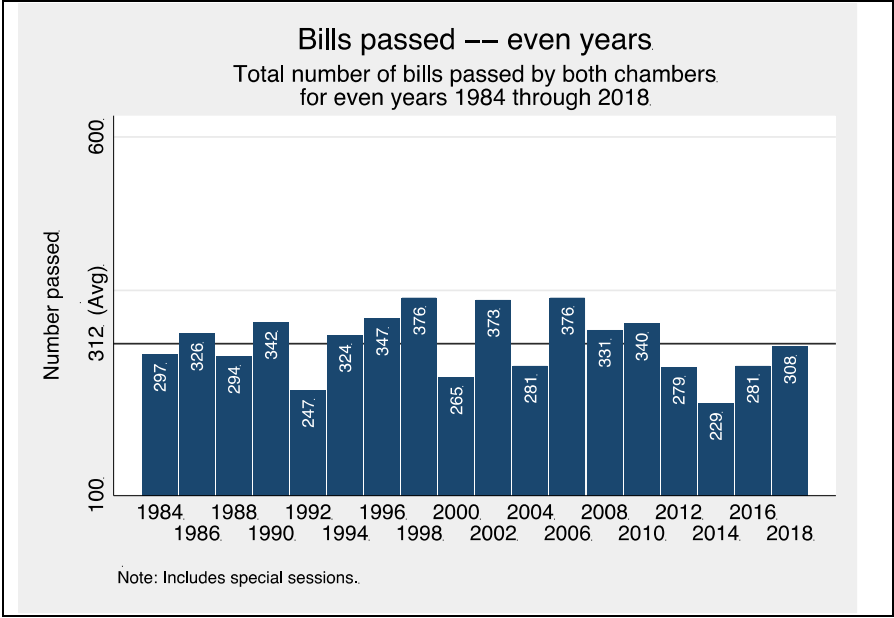
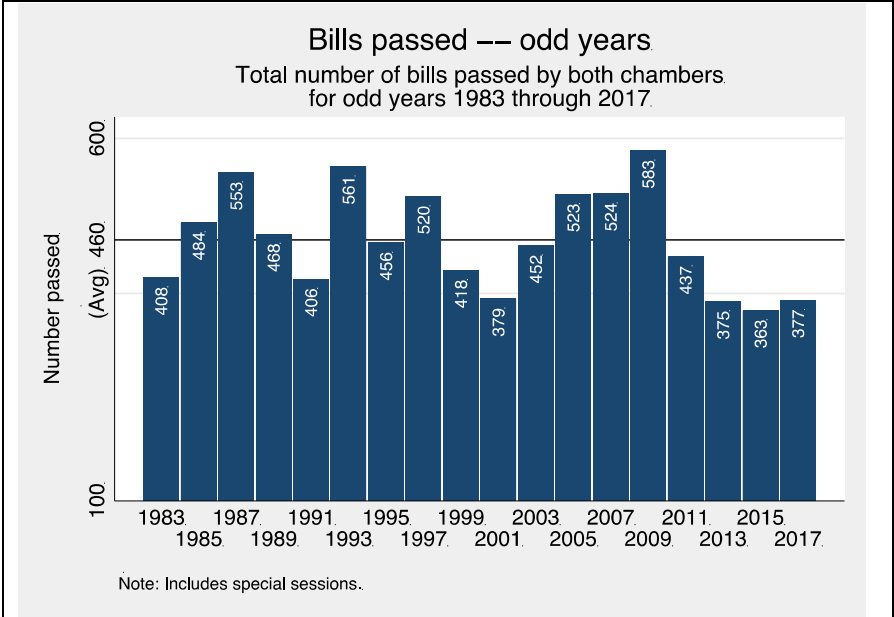
Note: Includes special sessions.

### House bills passed -- even years

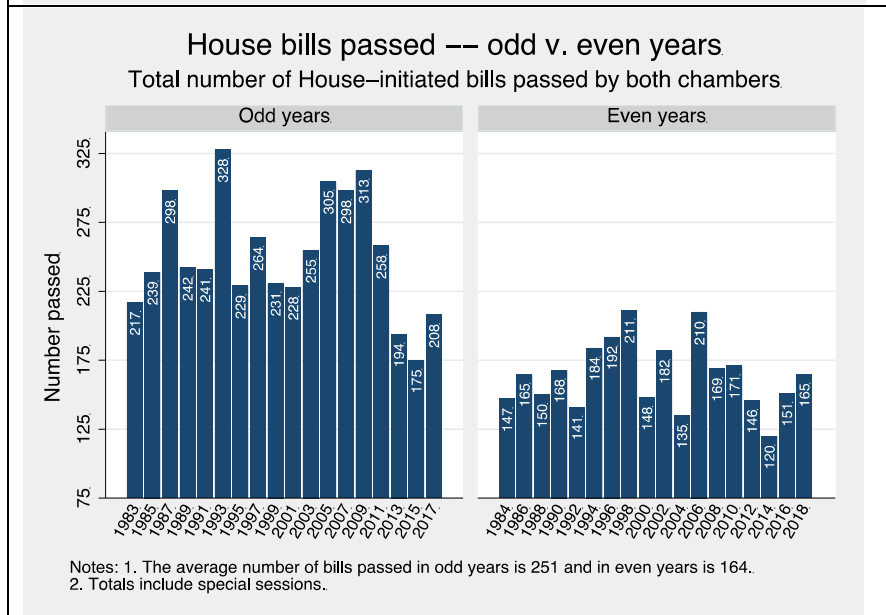
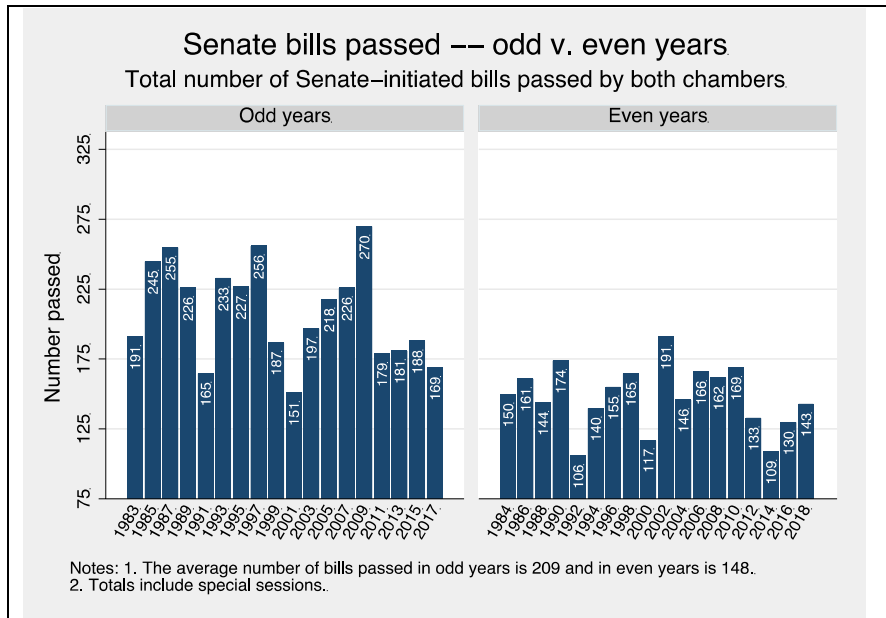
Total number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers for even years 1984 through 2018.



Note: Includes special sessions.



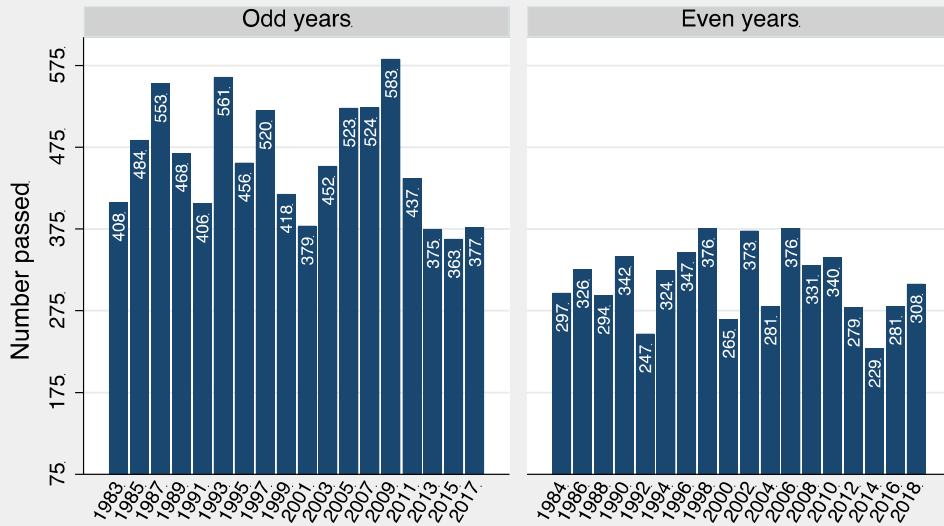
These and the next page are similar to the previous six charts but odd and even years are side-by-side for ease of comparison.





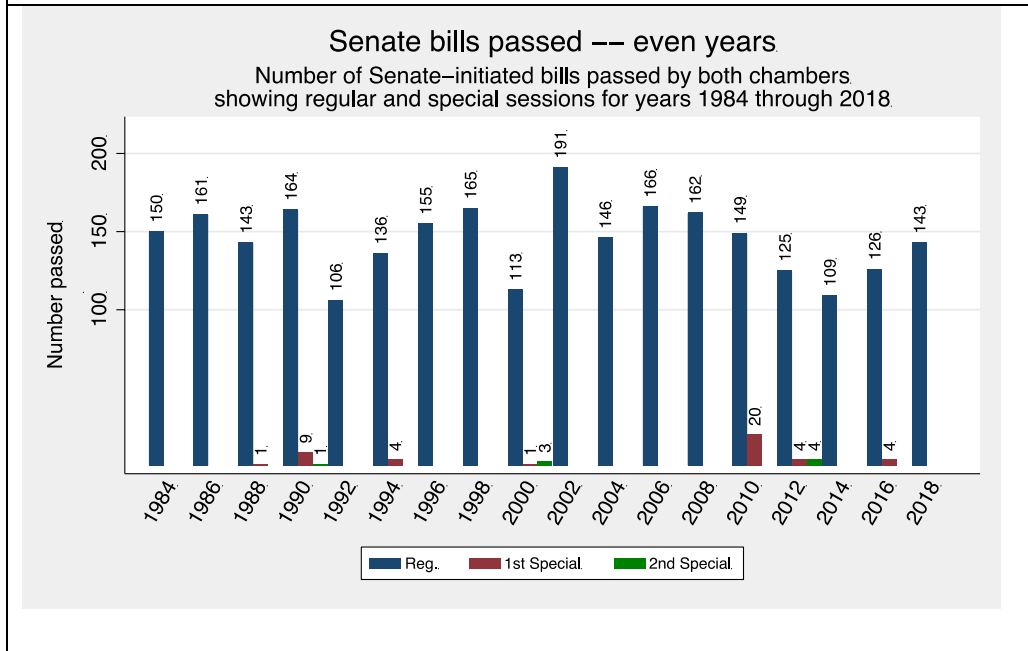
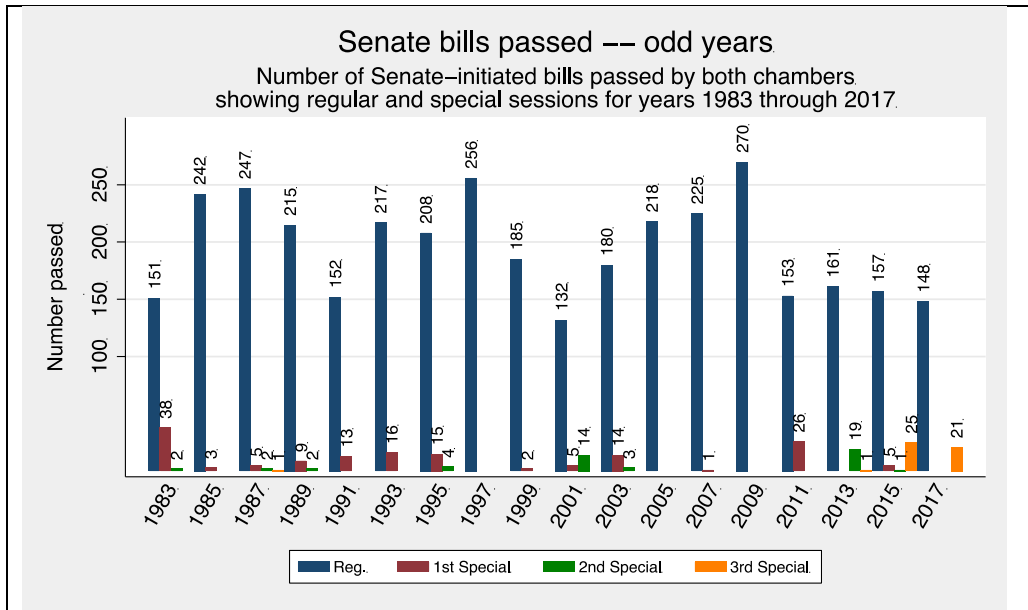
## Total bills passed — odd v. even years

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both.



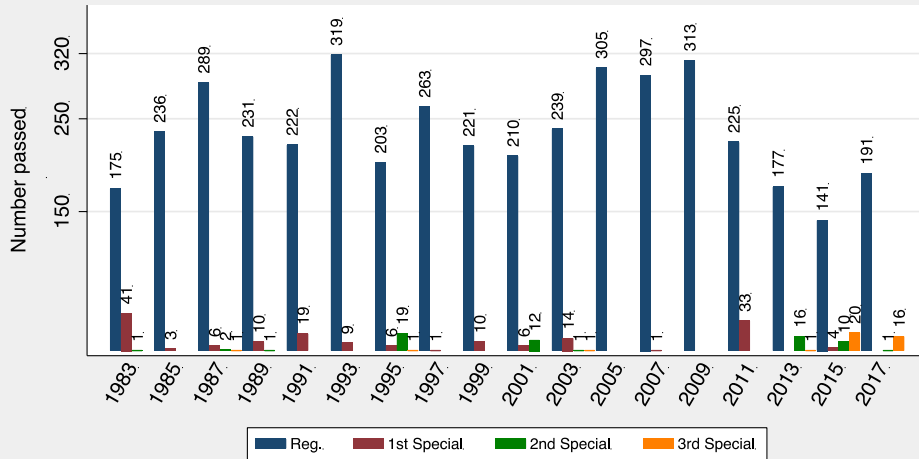
Notes: 1. The average number of bills passed in odd years is 460 and in even years is 312.  
 2. Totals include special sessions.

Six bar charts showing regular and special sessions.



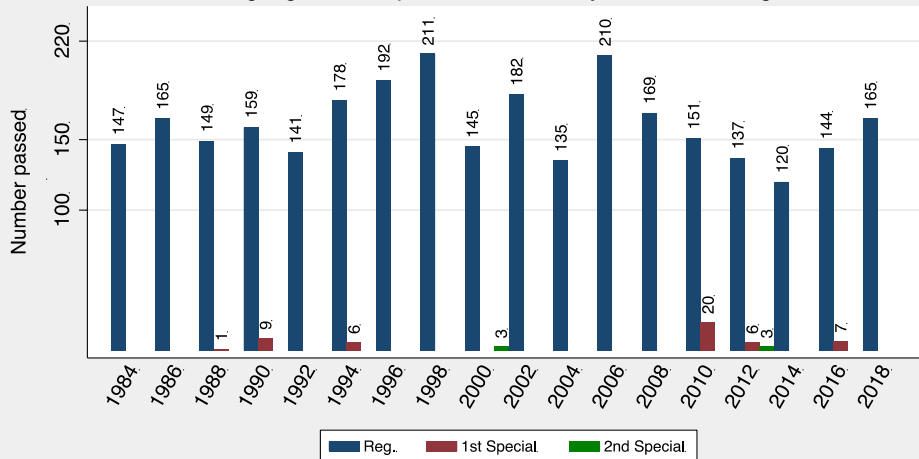
### House bills passed -- odd years

Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1983 through 2017.



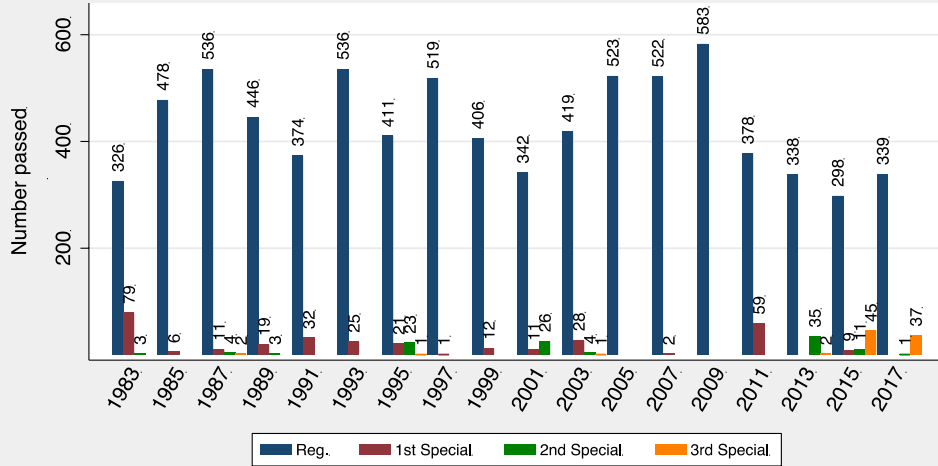
### House bills passed -- even years

Number of House-initiated bills passed by both chambers showing regular and special sessions for years 1984 through 2018.



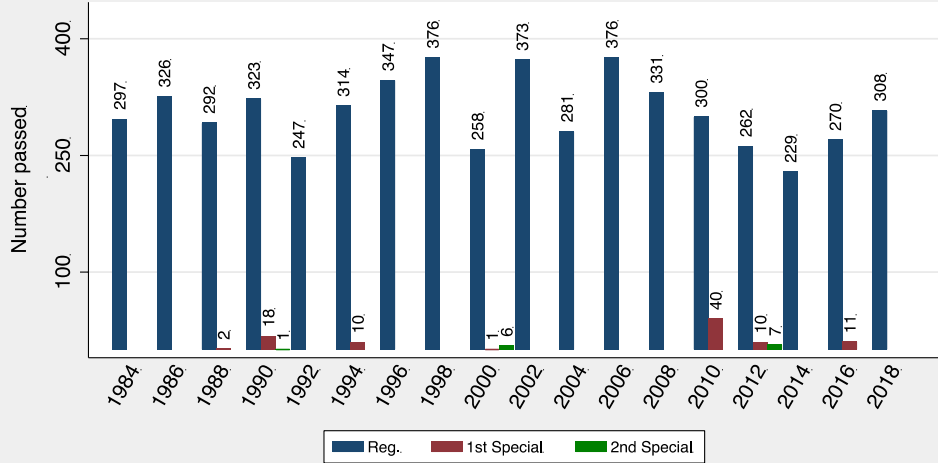
### Total bills passed -- odd years

Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both showing regular and special sessions for years 1983 through 2017.



### Total bills passed -- even years

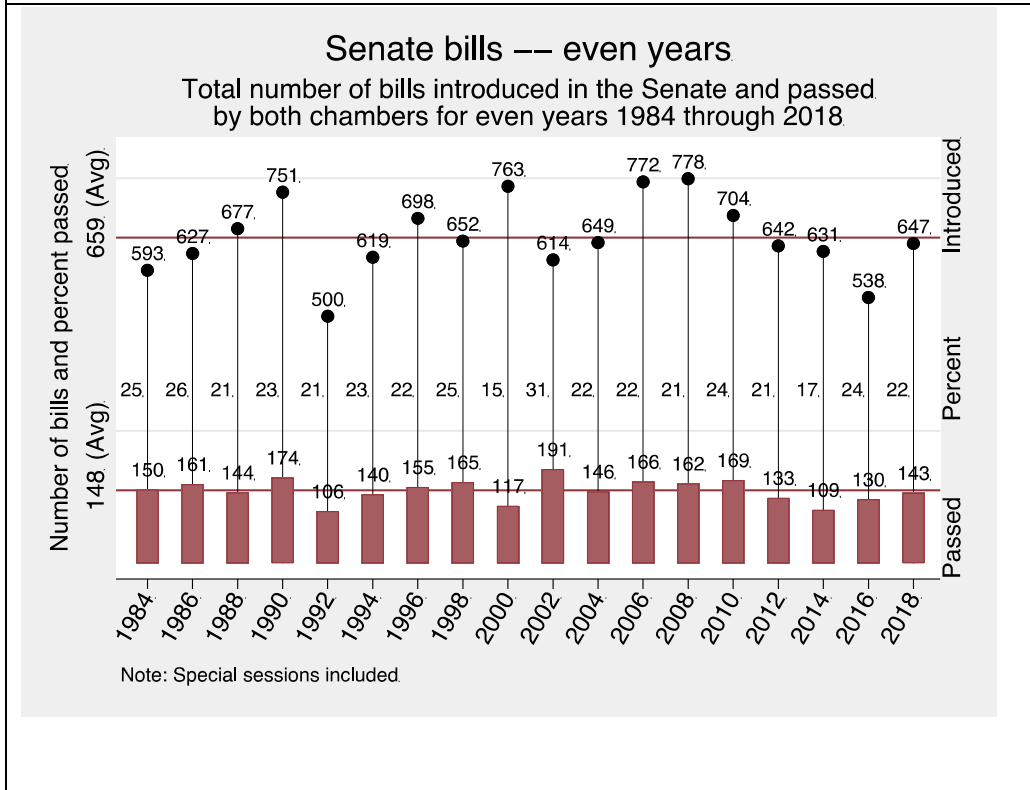
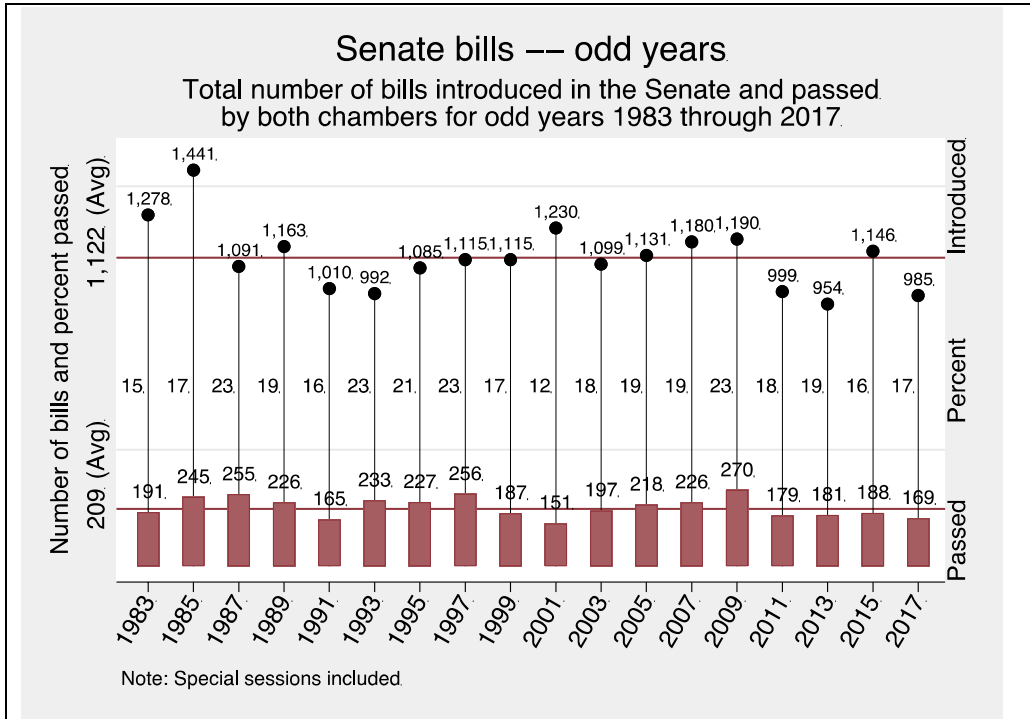
Number of bills initiated by either chamber and passed by both showing regular and special sessions for years 1984 through 2018.



Summary tables of regular and special sessions.

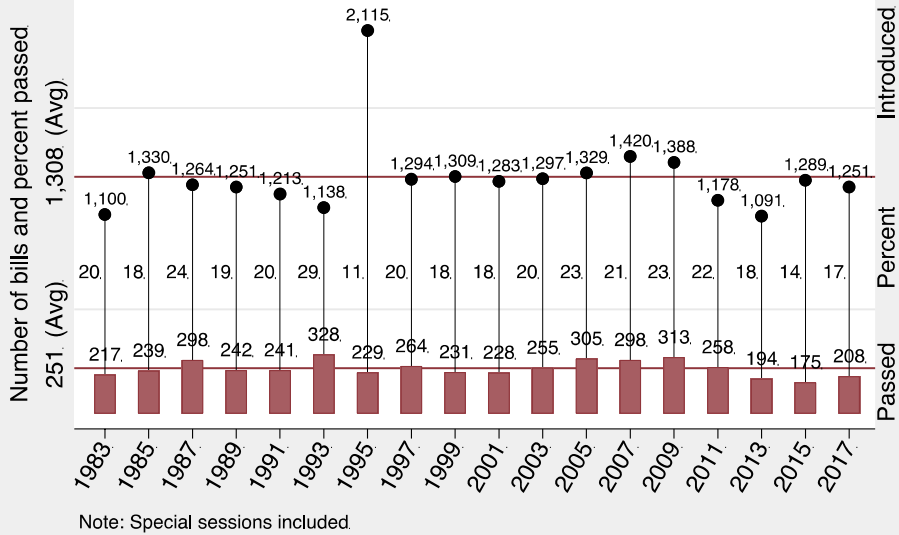
<b>Senate -- average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2018</b>				
<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Odd years</b>		<b>Even years</b>	
	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Number of sessions</b>	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Number of sessions</b>
<b>Regular</b>	195.4	18	145.0	18
<b>1st Special</b>	8.9	17	5.4	8
<b>2nd Special</b>	5.2	9	2.7	3
<b>3rd Special</b>	6.9	7	0.0	0
<b>During odd years there were five 3rd special sessions, but only two Senate-introduced bill in those five sessions had passed both chambers, giving an average of 0.4.</b>				
<b>House -- average number of bills passed and frequency of sessions for years 1983-2018</b>				
<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Odd years</b>		<b>Even years</b>	
	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Number of sessions</b>	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Number of sessions</b>
<b>Regular</b>	236.5	18	161.1	18
<b>1st Special</b>	9.6	17	6.1	8
<b>2nd Special</b>	7	9	2.0	3
<b>3rd Special</b>	5.7	7	0.0	0
<b>During even years there were three 2nd special sessions, three House-introduced bills in those three sessions had passed both chambers, giving an average of 2.</b>				
<b>Both Chambers -- sum of the average number of bills passed for years 1983-2018</b>				
<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Odd years</b>		<b>Even years</b>	
	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>	<b>Average number of bills passed</b>
<b>Regular</b>	431.9		306.1	
<b>1st Special</b>	18.5		11.5	
<b>2nd Special</b>	12.2		4.7	
<b>3rd Special</b>	12.6		0.0	

Next are six statistical summary charts of bills introduced and passed.



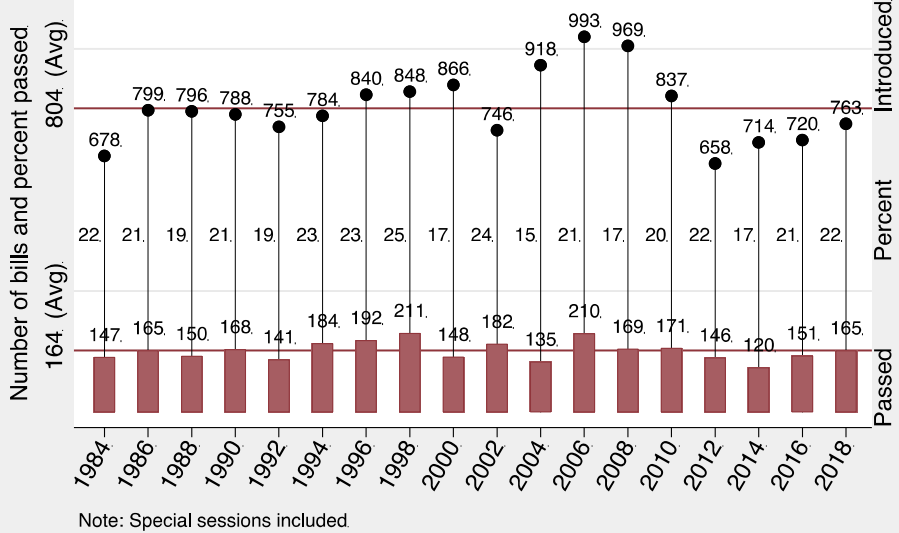
### House bills — odd years

Total number of bills introduced in the House and passed by both chambers for odd years 1983 through 2017.



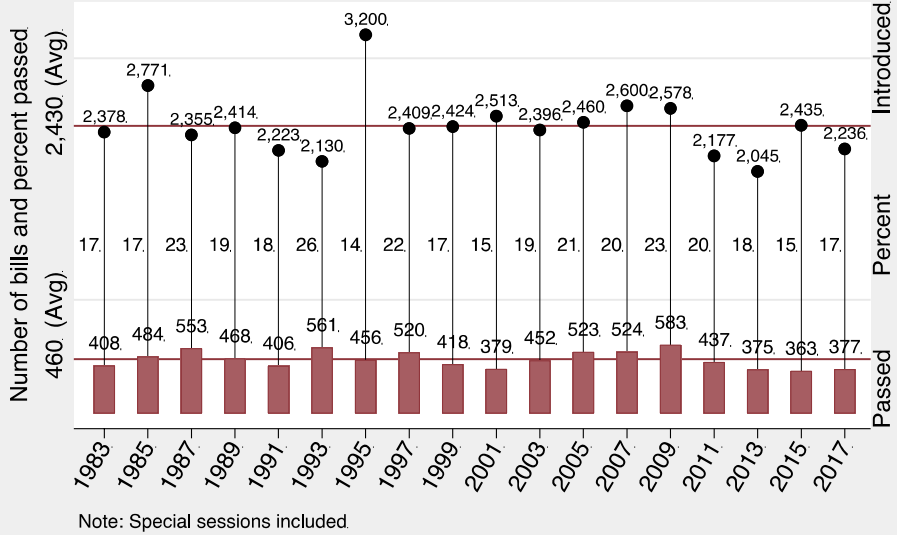
### House bills — even years

Total number of bills introduced in the House and passed by both chambers for even years 1984 through 2018.



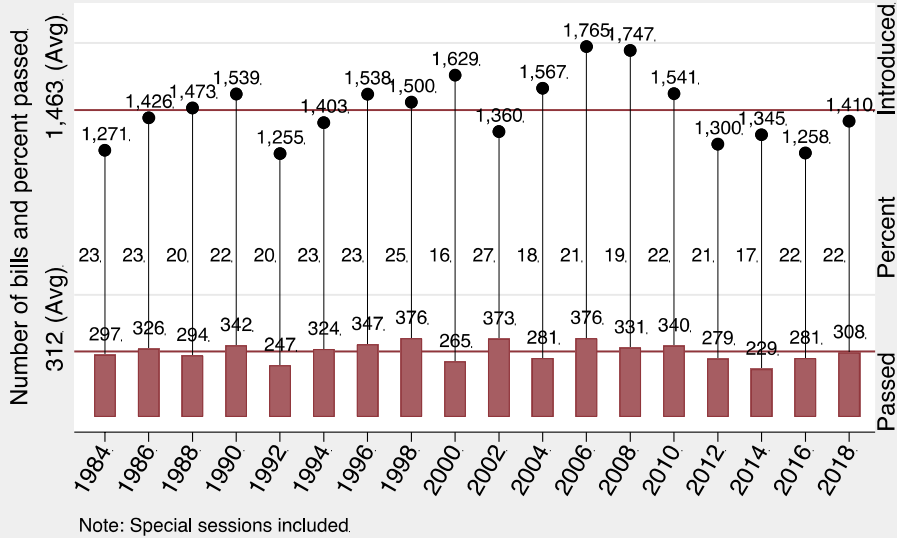
### Total bills -- odd years

Total number of bills introduced and passed by both chambers for odd years 1983 through 2017.



### Total bills -- even years

Total number of bills introduced and passed by both chambers for even years 1984 through 2018.

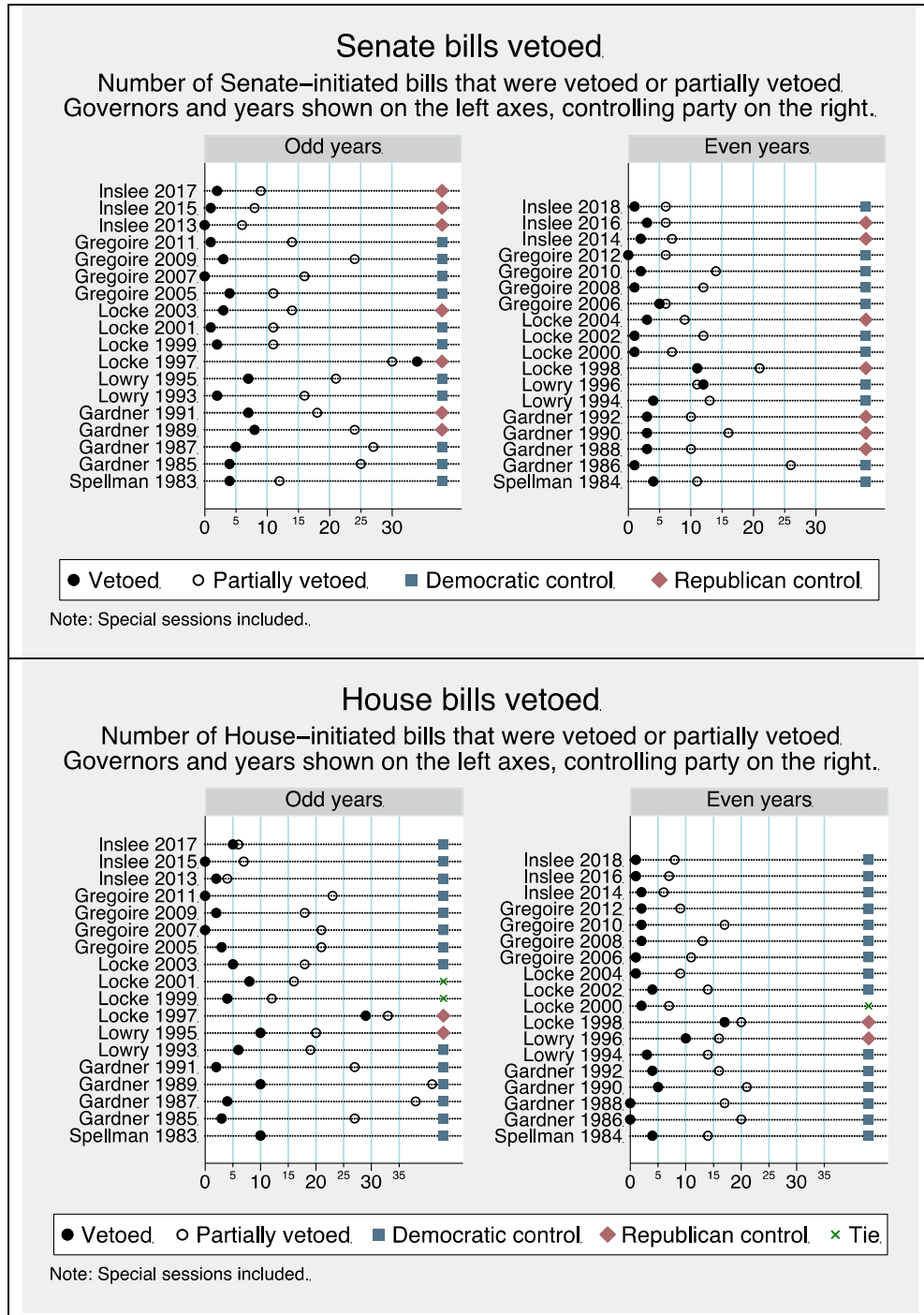




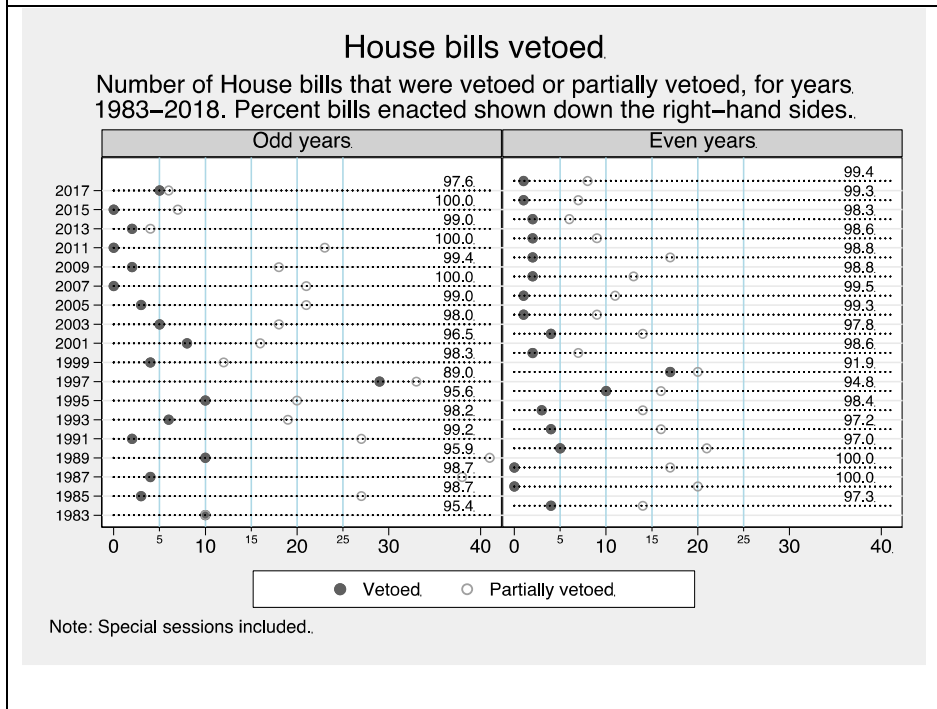
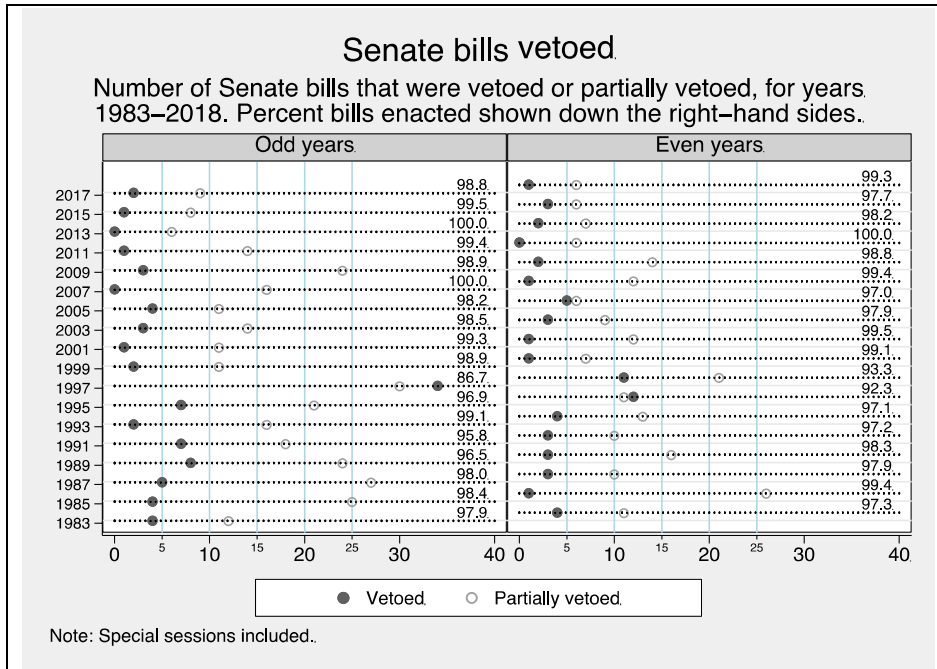
**Bills passed as a  
percent of those introduced**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Senate %</b>	<b>House %</b>	<b>Legislature%</b>
2018	22.1	21.6	21.8
2017	17.2	16.6	16.9
2016	24.2	21	22.3
2015	16.4	13.6	14.9
2014	17.3	16.8	17.0
2013	18.9	17.8	18.3
2012	20.7	22.2	21.5
2011	18.2	22.4	20.4
2010	23.8	20.4	21.9
2009	22.7	22.6	22.6
2008	20.8	17.4	18.9
2007	19.1	21.0	20.2
2006	21.5	21.1	21.3
2005	19.3	22.9	21.3
2004	22.5	14.7	17.9
2003	17.9	19.7	18.9
2002	31.1	24.4	27.4
2001	12.3	17.8	15.1
2000	15.3	17.1	16.3
1999	16.8	17.6	17.2
1998	25.3	24.9	25.1
1997	23.0	20.4	21.6
1996	22.2	22.9	22.6
1995	20.9	10.8	14.3
1994	22.6	23.5	23.1
1993	23.5	28.8	26.3
1992	21.2	18.7	19.7
1991	16.3	19.9	18.3
1990	23.2	21.3	22.2
1989	19.4	19.3	19.4
1988	21.3	18.8	20.0
1987	23.4	23.6	23.5
1986	25.7	20.7	22.9
1985	17.0	18.0	17.5
1984	25.3	21.7	23.4
1983	14.9	19.7	17.2
<b>Average</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>20.4</b>

This page gives horizontal dot plots for easy comparison of bills partially and fully vetoed versus odd and even years, also showing presiding governors and controlling party.

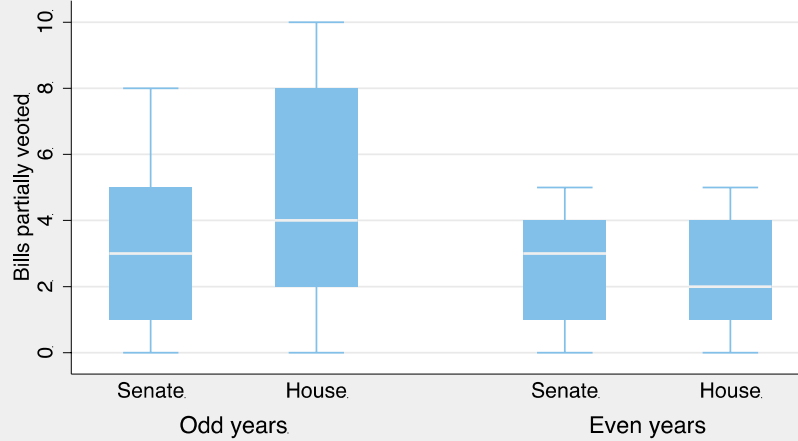


Here we have plots similar to the preceding page but showing the number of bills vetoed and the percent enacted. The next page of box (or box-and-whisker) plots is used to contrast the Senate and House. These were used because the data are too skewed and variable for the mean to reasonably portray central tendency. This is followed by a summary table of percentages using medians.



### Senate vs. House -- vetoed bills

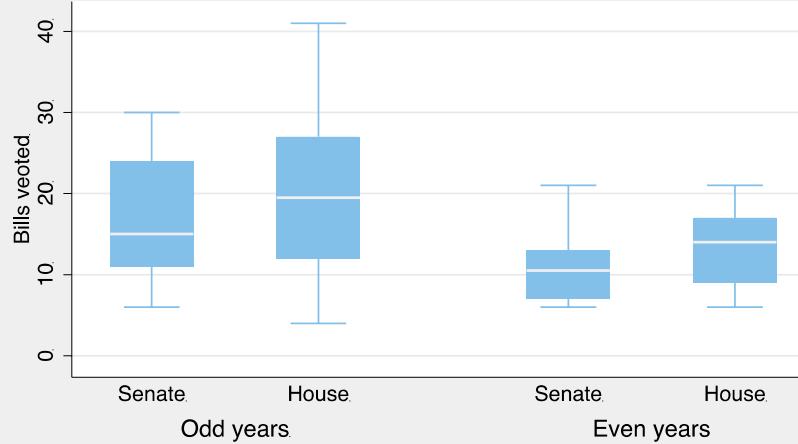
Robust pictorial comparison, years 1983–2018



Note: The rectangles depict the inner 50% of the data. The horizontal line within each rectangle represents the median number of vetoed bills. Likely outliers are not shown because they clutter the graph.

### Senate vs. House -- partially vetoed bills

Robust pictorial comparison, years 1983–2018

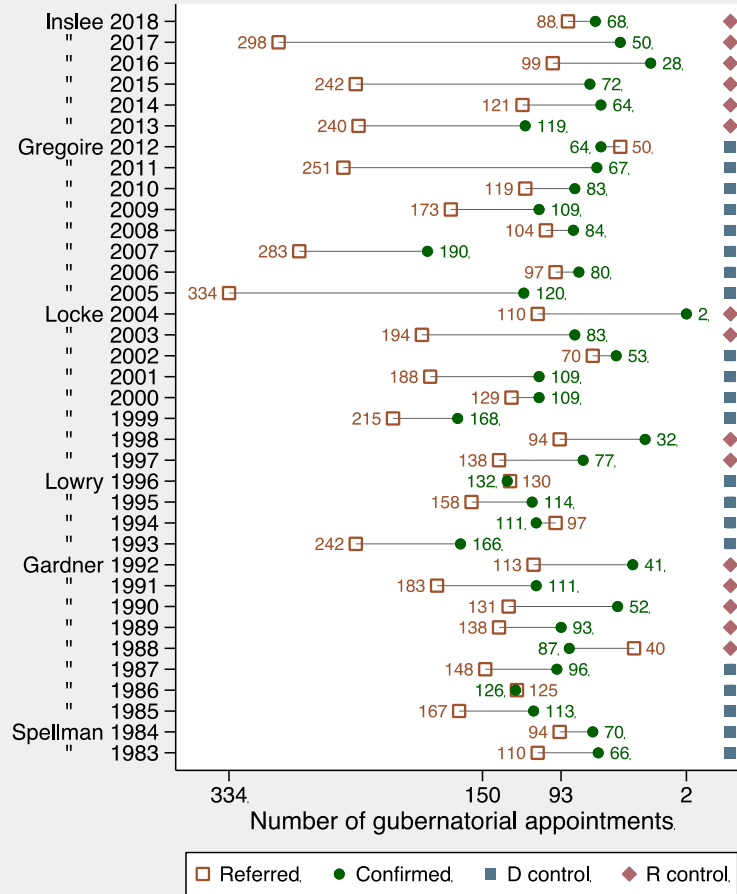


Note: The rectangles depict the inner 50% of the data. The horizontal line within each rectangle represents the median number of partially vetoed bills. Likely outliers are not shown because they clutter the graph.

On the average, the House introduces and subsequently passes more bills than the Senate. So one would expect the average number of bills vetoed to be somewhat higher in the lower chamber. The following table looks at percentages. Again, for robustness the median was used, this time to calculate the percentages.

Average percent of partial and full vetoes for years 1983-2018						
	Odd years			Even years		
Action	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Partial veto	7.2 %	8.2 %	7.9 %	7.1 %	8.5 %	7.5 %
Full veto	1.4	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.2	1.3
Median number of bills passed or vetoed for years 1983-2018						
	Odd years			Even years		
Action	Senate	House	Legislature	Senate	House	Legislature
Partial veto	15.0	19.5	18.0	10.5	14.0	11.5
Full veto	3.0	4	3.5	3.0	2.0	2.0
Bills passed	207.5	241.5	228.5	148.0	165.0	153.0
Note: Percentages are calculated directly from the tabled median values (e.g., 15 divided by 207.5 yields 7.2%).						

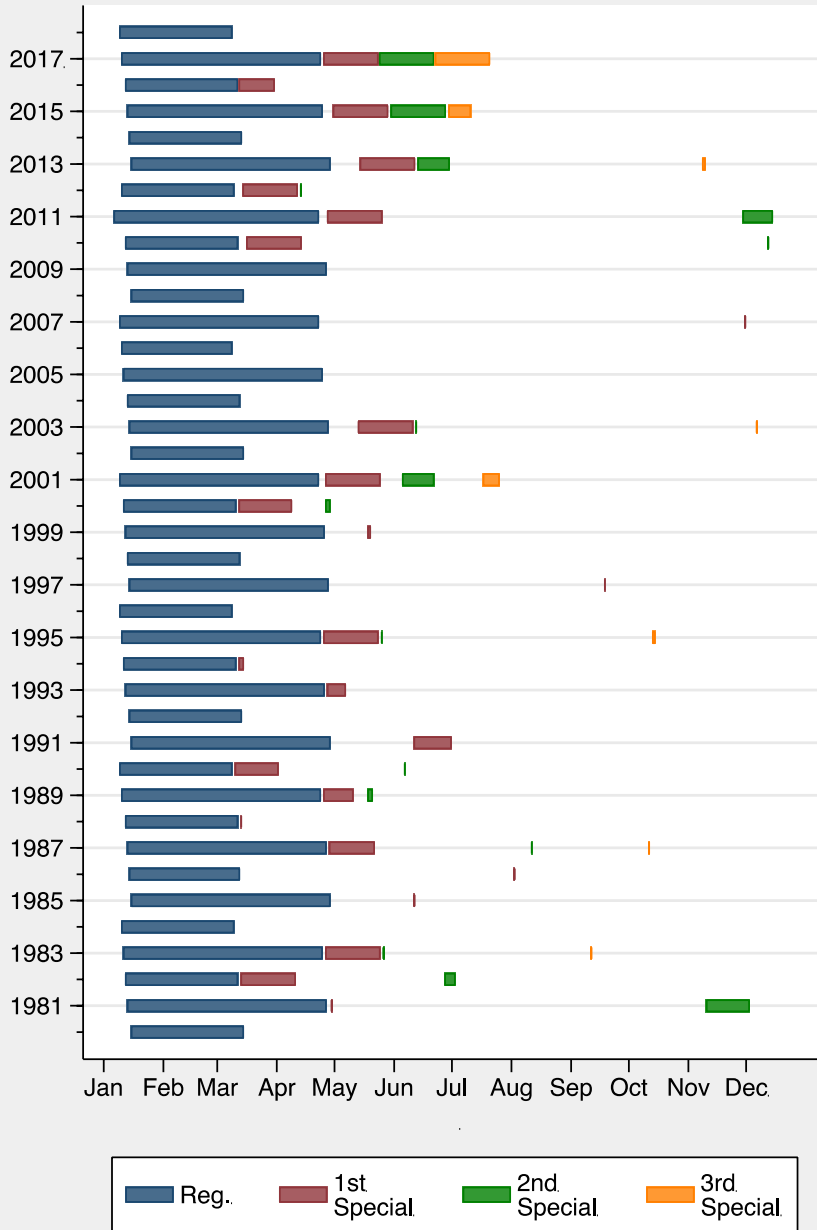
### Gubernatorial appointments, referred and confirmed.



Notes: The average number referred for 1983–2018 was 153; the average number confirmed was 89. Special session appointments, if any, are included.

The next graph summarizes length of sessions from 1980 through 2014, showing regular and special sessions.

## Washington State Legislature Length of sessions for years 1980–2018



## Overview of legislative sessions since 1980

### Regular sessions

Scheduled length of regular sessions: 60 days in even years  
105 days in odd years

Since regular annual sessions began in 1980, the shortest sessions occurred in 1986 and 2006, each being 59 days.

### Special sessions

Special sessions	Count since 1980	Average length (days)	Minimum num. days	Maximum num. days
1st	26	18.9	1	30
2nd	16	10.0	1	30
3rd	8	7.8	1	30

In 2017, three special sessions totaled 90 days to make it Washington's longest one-year session of 195 days.

Next are four charts showing the political division of the Senate and House going all the way back to 1889, when Washington was still a territory. Following these political division charts, and completing this chart book, are three historical charts of women in our legislature.

A few highlights are:

The Enabling Act of 1889 changed three territories into four states: Washington, Montana, N. & S. Dakota.

In 1896, J.R. Rogers became Washington's only populist governor.

The drop in the total number of seats in the House for the years 1905 and 1911 is surprising. Expected would be for the number of seats to steadily increase toward the constitutional maximum for the House of 99 seats.

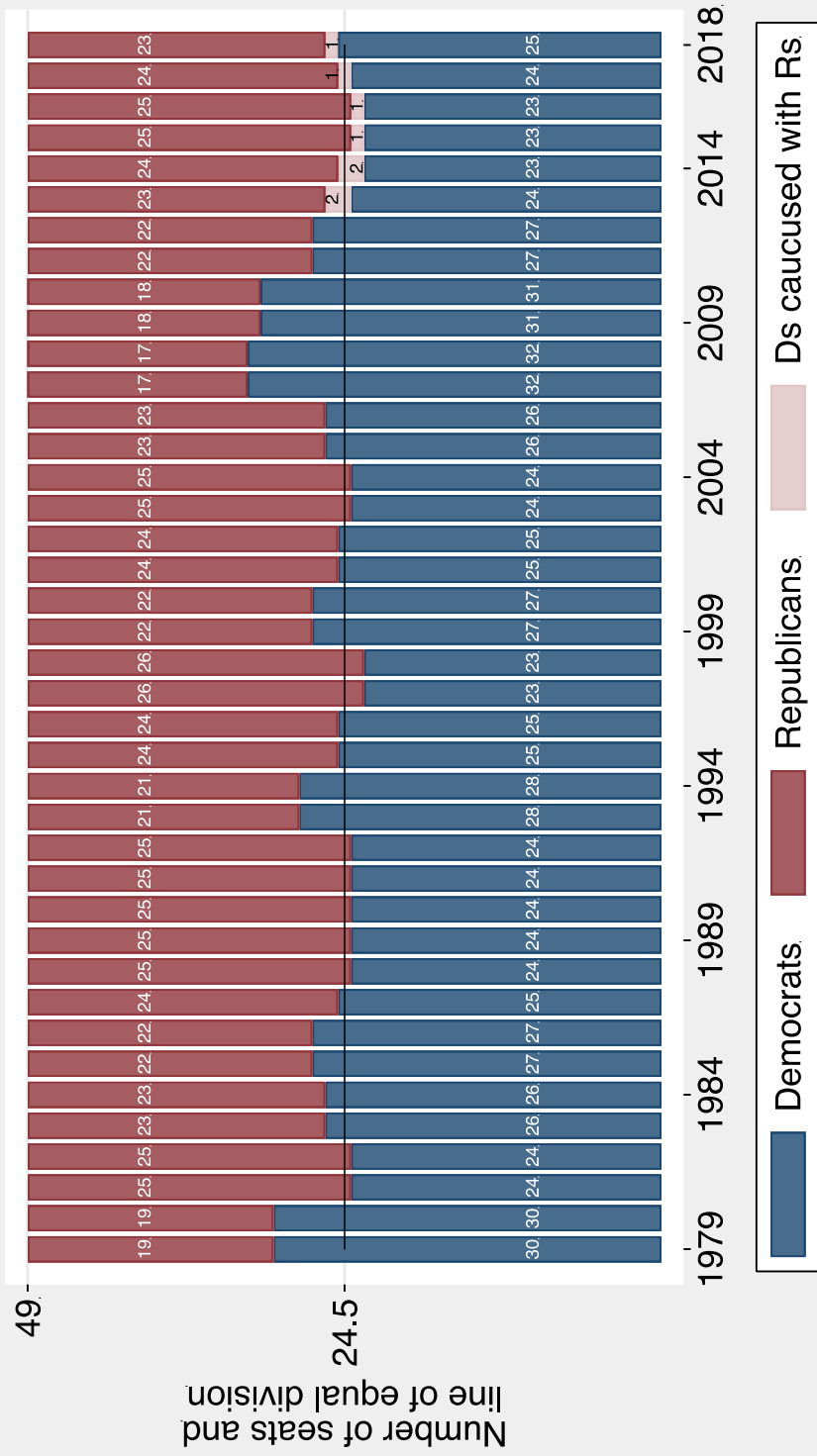
The charts suggest the influence of redistricting. For example, for the state Senate, from 1967 on (following the Supreme Court's decisions, Carr v. Baker in 1962 and Reynolds v. Sims in '64) there is less variability in the political division, and by 1981 political majority swings are even less, staying within a maximum of three seats.

Note the dominant Republican majority in both chambers after WWI, followed by the significant switch to the Democrats during the Great Depression and the New Deal



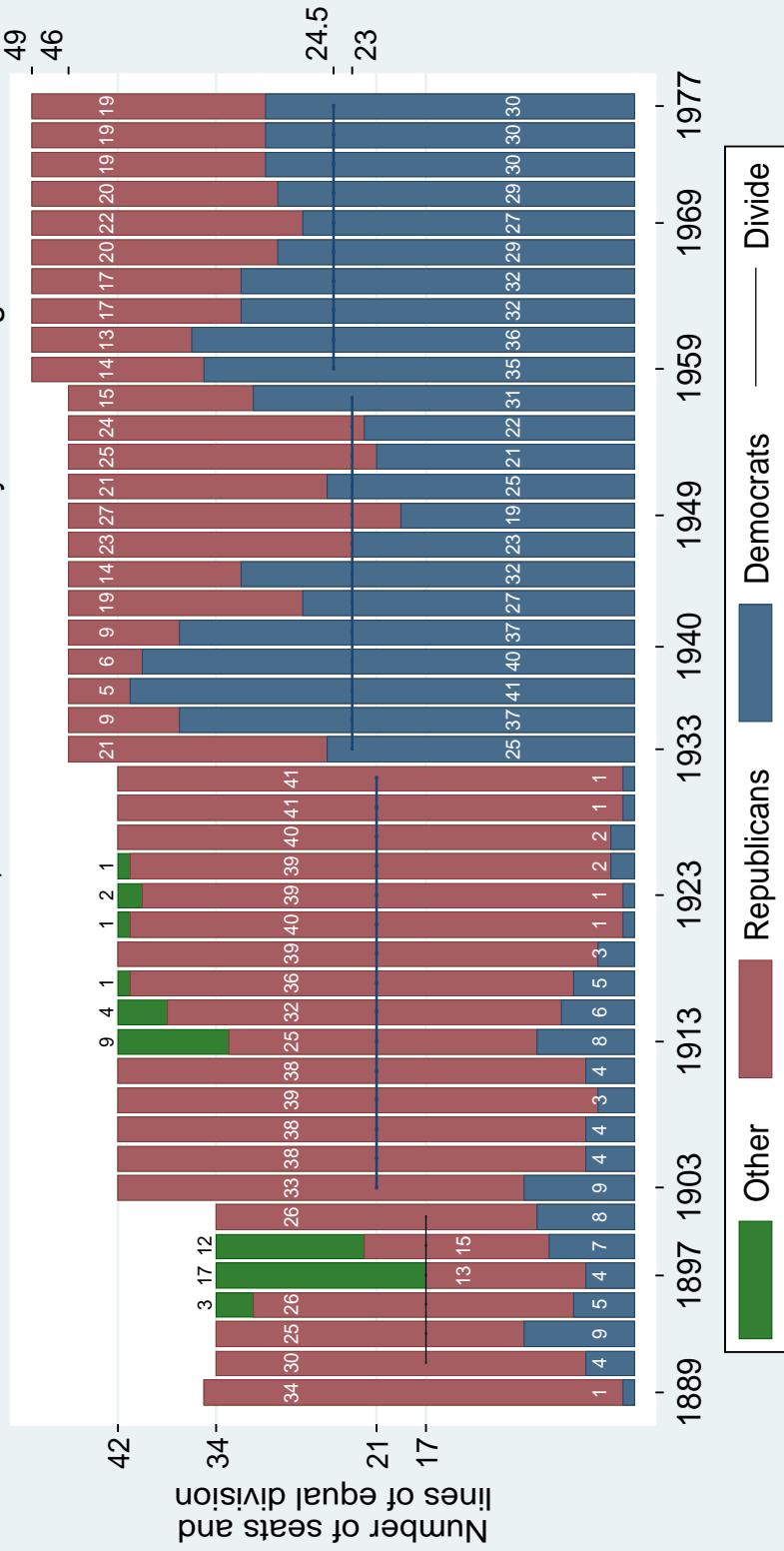
# Washington State Legislature

## Political Division of State Senate, years 1979–2018



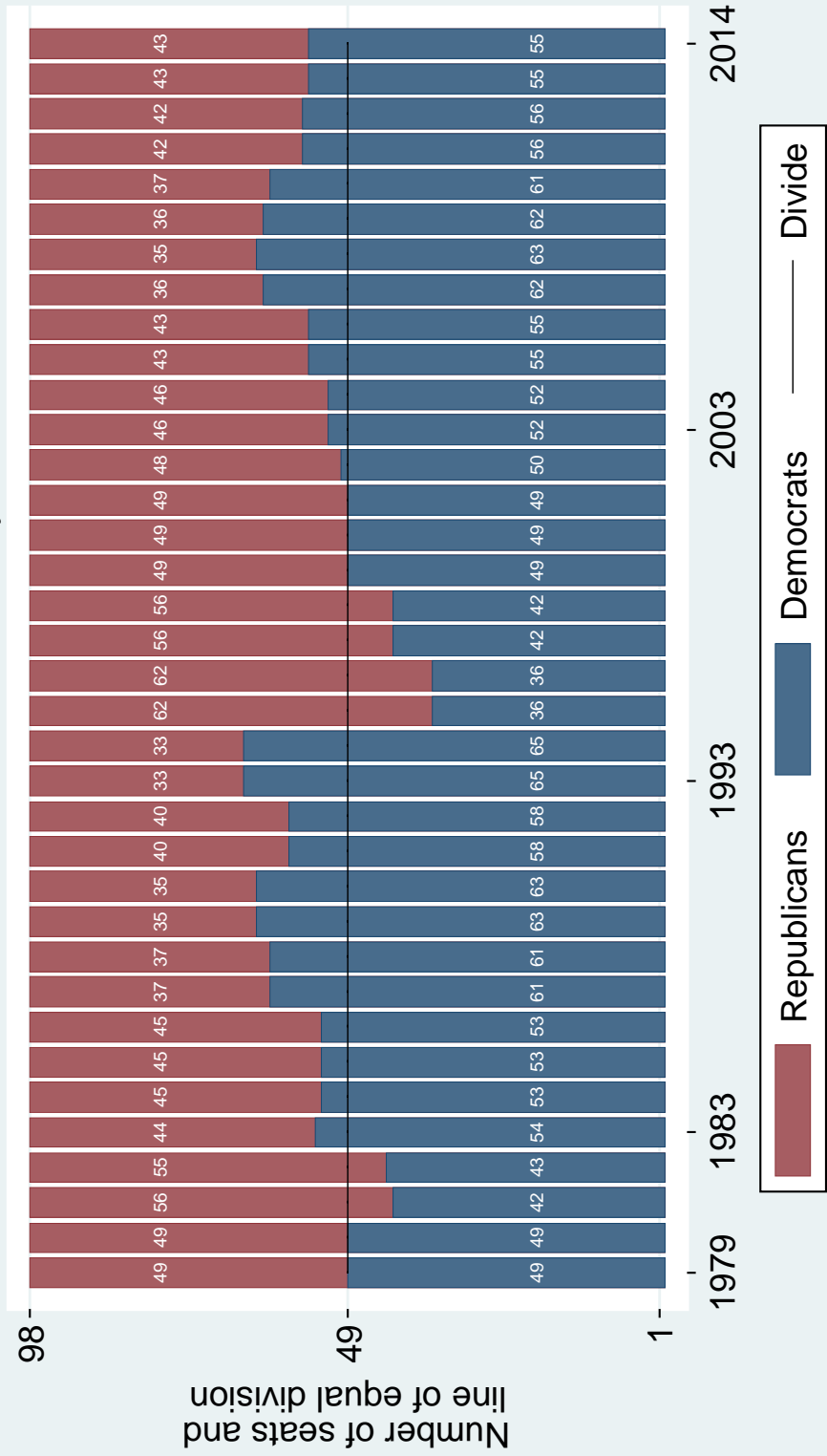
## Washington State Legislature

Political Division of State Senate, which convened on odd years during 1889-1977



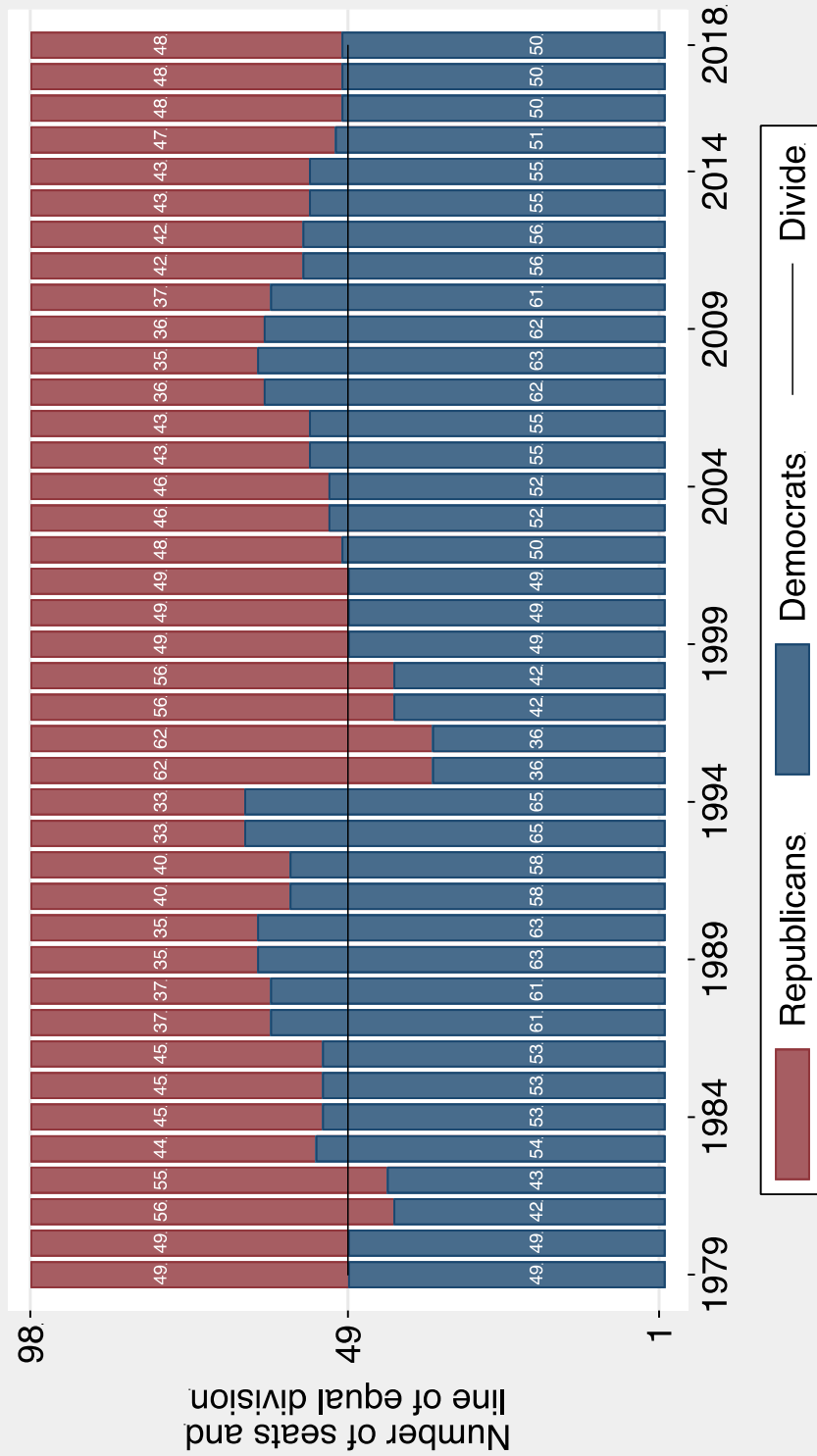
# Washington State Legislature

## Political Division of State House, years 1979-2014

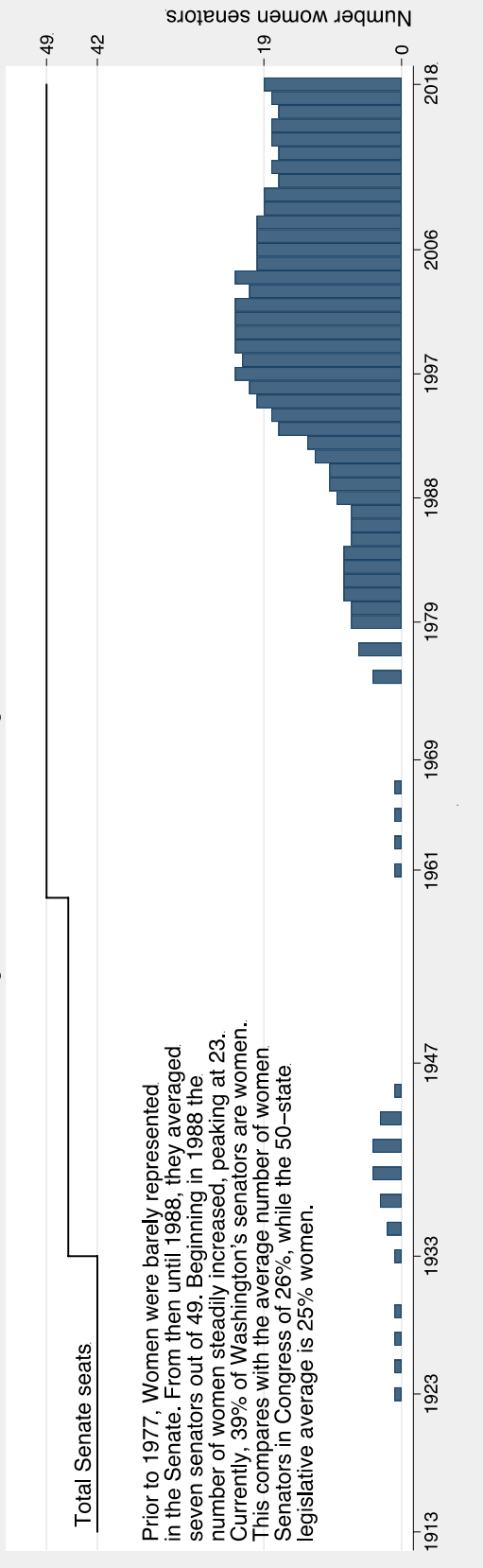


# Washington State Legislature

## Political Division of State House, years 1979–2018



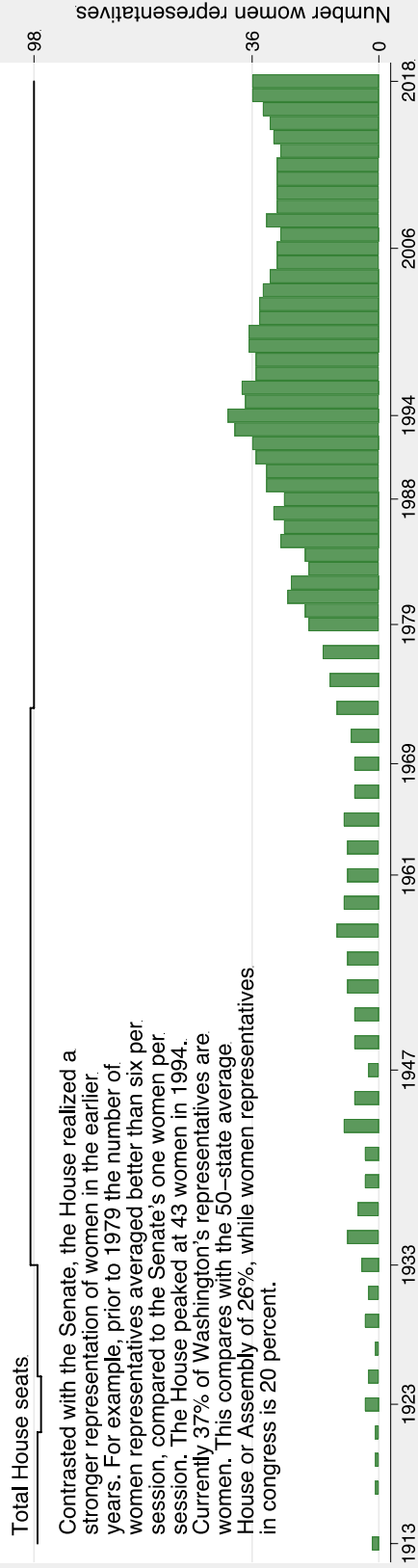
### Women legislators in the Washington State Senate



### Women legislators in the Washington State House

Total House seats

Contrasted with the Senate, the House realized a stronger representation of women in the earlier years. For example, prior to 1979 the number of women representatives averaged better than six per session, compared to the Senate's one woman per session. The House peaked at 43 women in 1994. Currently 37% of Washington's representatives are women. This compares with the 50-state average House or Assembly of 26%, while women representatives in congress is 20 percent.



### Women legislators in the Washington State House and Senate

In 1910, ten years before women's suffrage became the law of the land, Washington women gained the right to vote. Three years later, in 1913, two women became members of the House. Now there are 55 state women legislators, 37% of the total 147 legislative seats. The 50-state average is 25%.

